

Progress Report 2007

Project Title Using Climate Forecast to Manage Drought and Promote Indigenous Intensification of Agriculture

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Report – Due to the late arrival of funds for the grant, it was not possible to launch any field activities, which were already ahead of time. According to the Japan Meteorological Agency Index, 2007 was an El Nino year. In this ENSO-affected area, many of the most extreme rainfall anomalies, such as severe drought have a strong tele-connection to an El Nino event. The 2007 El Nino was one of the severe events that caused widespread drought and flooding in many parts of West Africa. The geographic area covered by this project was no exception. First, due to delayed rains in the month of June, known characteristics of an El Nino, about 40% of the farmers did not plant on time. When rains finally came, drought destroyed about 70% of the cereal crop production. Virtually every community was affected by this event.